



2013 - 11

PLANET HOT

September 7

"Be the first to not do what nobody has ever thought of not doing before." ~ Brian Eno

I'M A HERO

And not just because I'll be performing as **Dick Cheney** in a skit by **Larry (Borat) Charles** as part of a fundraiser for the **Hero Ensemble** at 3 and 7 on Saturday, September 7 at the **Mack Sennett Studios** in Los Feliz. But if you can come support me, I'll feel like one for sure.

And I'll be making a personal appearance as **Richard Nixon** on Thursday, September 12, at a special preview screening of **Noel Lawrence's** *What Makes Sammy Run* at the **Bergamot Station** in Santa Monica. For a raging Liberal, I sure get all the juicy rightwing roles...

I've also hired my friend, writer **Brad Schreiber**, to help me pull together a proposal for my long overdue autobiography. We hope to offer the project to publishers that can give us an advance sufficient to finish the book, but we've already gotten several suggestions from our supporters to possibly pursue when we're ready.

A Belated Birthday Poem

Some are born witty
Some are born dim
Some become pretty
Some are named Jim

In all this world
There are few that are found
To make this life indeed
Profound

Your words are ironic
Your faces iconic
Those characters you play
In our hearts do stay

So a toast to your day here
You braved the hardest of these
years
To help us laugh away our fears
To become a part of OUR years
So here's to you. Cheers!

~ Nick Oliva

■ CONTINUED

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THROUGHOUT THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING **BOLD, DARK RED TYPE** OPENS A RELATED INTERNET LINK.

"In ancient times cats were worshiped as gods; they have not forgotten this." ~ Terry Pratchett

BETTER READ THAN RED

NASA's next mission to Mars will carry what no spacecraft has carried before: more than a thousand 17-syllable haiku poems, digitized on a decorated DVD. The **MESSAGE TO MARS** haiku contest was part of the outreach effort associated with the **MAVEN orbiter**, which is to be launched this fall to study the Red Planet's atmosphere. About 12,500 valid entries were submitted by poets around the world and each poem reflected the 5-7-5-syllable scheme associated with traditional Japanese haiku to be voted for by Internet users around the world.

And one of the entries accepted was from my friend, poet and Scifi author **Vanna Bonta**, who wrote:

*Thirty-six million miles
of whispering welcome.
Mars, you called us home.*

Which is even more pertinent, since recent studies of Martian meteorites that struck a nascent earth millions of years ago, suggest that we are actually all Martians. And I also liked this entry by **Ben Smith** in the UK:

*It's funny, they named
Mars after the God of War;
have a look at Earth.*

And here's my take, which is too late to be included:

*Red Planet, my eye!
It's now dusty and rusty,
not wet -- it's too dry.*

*"How do you keep a Mormon
from drinking all your beer?
Invite two of them over."
~ John Shaffer*

REALLY HIGH HAIKU
The DVD and its spot aboard the
Mars MAVEN orbiter (arrow).

LET'S EAT

A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at their town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.

"This baked ham is really delicious," the Priest teased the Rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden. You don't know what you're missing. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?"

The Rabbi looked at the Priest with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding."

"A goal is a dream with a deadline." ~ Napoleon Hill

BLACK IS THE NEW BLACK

A memorial gathering will take place on September 17 for the beloved actress, and my longtime personal friend, **Karen Black**, who died at 74 after a brave battle with cancer. The memorial, arranged by her husband, **Stephen Eckelberry**, will be held at **Hollywood Forever**.

Karen once starred as a jewel thief in **Alfred Hitchcock's** 1976 movie **Family Plot**. "We used to read each other poems and limericks, and he tried to catch me on my vocabulary," she wrote. "You seem very perspicacious today, Miss Black," Hitch once said. "Oh, you mean 'keenly perceptive?'" she answered. Her older sister, **Gail Brown**, is also an actress, playing **Clarice Hobson** on the soap opera "**Another World**." (The Zeiglers come from a colorful family!)

And we also must say farewell to **Julie Harris**, whom I greatly respected, fellow Antaeon **Ralph Drishell**, and **David Frost**, known best for having interviewed me – or rather, Nixon.

■ CONTINUED



"You gotta go to people's funerals because if you don't, they won't come to yours." ~ Yogi Berra

in highly complex communications using grammatical sentence structure. **MORE**

And speaking of other species, Planeteer **Bill Bowles** notes that, "Ants have built nests under every continent on the face of the earth EXCEPT Antarctica," and asks, "Does anyone else find that strange?" To which I answered, "No!"

"Stupidity is the same as evil, if you judge by result."
~ Margaret Atwood

WORLD WAR, TOO

Elmer Bendiner was a navigator in a B-17 during World War II. He tells this story of a WWII bombing run over Kassel, Germany and the unexpected result of a direct hit on their fuel tanks:

*Our B-17, the 'Tondelayo,' was barraged by flak from Nazi anti-aircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit. Later, as I reflected on the miracle of a 20 millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, **Bohn Fawkes**, told me it was not quite that simple.*

On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck. The crew chief told Bohn that not just one shell but 11 had been found in the gas tanks! Eleven unexploded shells where only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us. Even after 35 years, so awesome an event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn.

He was told that the shells had been sent to the armorers to be defused. The armorers told him that Intelligence had picked them up. They could not say why at the time, but Bohn eventually sought out the answer.

■ **CONTINUED**



DOLPHINS ARE PEOPLE, TOO

According to **NaturalNews**, Dolphins have been granted "non-human personhood" status by the government of India, making it the first nation in the world to recognize the unique intelligence and self-awareness of the cetacean order (a class of aquatic mammals). The decision was announced by India's Minister of the Environment and Forests, which also outlawed captive dolphin shows. The ministry added that dolphins "should have their own specific rights."

Recent research shows that dolphins choose their own unique name – a series of complex whistles – before they reach one year, and from then on, all the other dolphins in their social group call them by that unique name. They can even remember a name if only heard once, after 20 years. I can't do that!

Previous research has shown that dolphins have human-like self-awareness and engage



BACK TO BASE

British crew members of the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress "Tondelayo" are interrogated after returning to an 8th Air Force base in England 70 years ago today.

Apparently, when the armorers opened each of those shells, they found there was no explosive charge. They were as clean as a whistle and just as harmless. Empty? Not all of them! One contained a carefully rolled piece of paper. On it was a scrawl in Czech. The Intelligence people scoured our base for a man who could read Czech. Eventually they found someone to decipher the note. It read: 'This is all we can do for you now.' Using a conquered people (the Czechs) as slave laborers was not such a good idea.

"I have enough money to last me the rest of my life, unless I buy something." ~ Jackie Mason

GIVE ME A BREAK

I am happy to announce, that through the encouragement of the online label **LAUGH.COM**, founded by comedy icons like **George Carlin**, **Jonathan Winters**, **Phyllis Diller**, and **Milton Berle**, and led by Milton's nephew, the peerless **Marshall Berle**, you can now purchase a CD copy of **Proctor & Bergman's** classic album, **Give Us a Break** – and it's just as fresh as when we laid it all down on vinyl back in 1978.

It's a prescient parody of the future of commercial radio, and it's perhaps our most musical album ever, featuring the vocal stylings of **The Starland Vocal Band** – whose monster hit "**Afternoon Delight**" got them a summer variety show that featured P&B and a young, brash, standup comic named **Dave Letterman**. This album also led to a Soundstage special we taped in Chicago called **The World of Proctor & Bergman**, which featured many of the pieces on the album.

So what are you waiting for? Previously unavailable, it's available now, and it's as funny as the first time we performed this material live at comedy clubs and college campuses across the country. So **GIVE US A BREAK** and order your copy today, or if you like being in two places at once when you're not anywhere at all, download it from your iTunes store. Thank me, and I'm welcome.

"There are no small roles. Only small dressing rooms."
~ Will Hutchins

THIS JUST IN

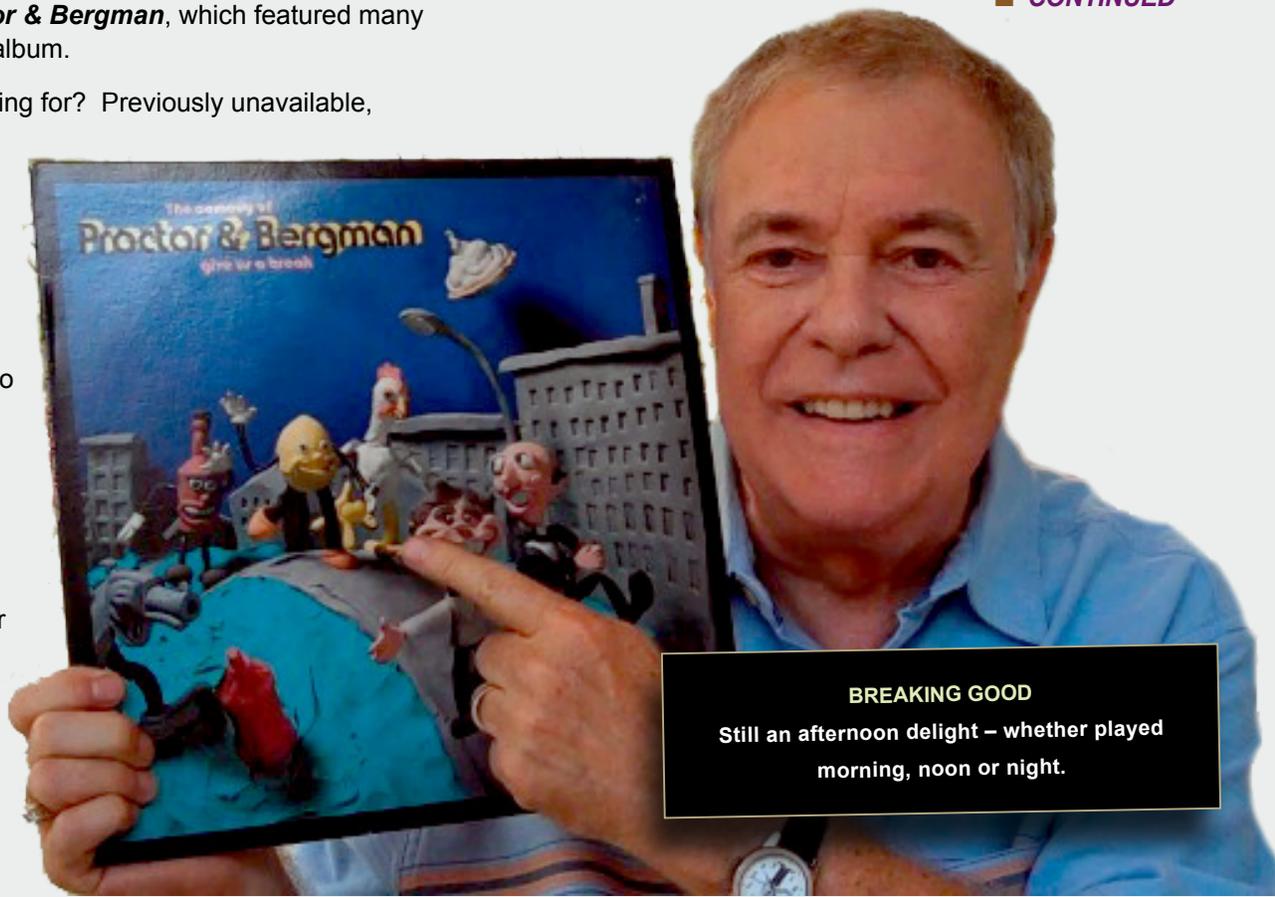
Planeteer and world travel writer **Paul Ross** notes that from his local Santa Fe, NM, newspaper, that a UPS store was robbed by a man in clown makeup, "which they did not dub the *Bozo Bandit*. The getaway car had 28 others in it, possibly carrying a pie, and he's described as *armed and hilarious*."

Also, the Feds have finally announced that they will not interfere with the legalization of marijuana use in states that have ratified use for personal or medicinal purposes. And a recent study of the effect of poverty on people throughout the globe has concluded that it adversely affects their actual brainpower.

Therefore, folks do not apparently become poor because of laziness or low intelligence as the rightwing loves to declare, but instead the state of poverty itself leads to a lower IQ and leftist government programs only add to this effect, since "tedious paperwork, inconvenient appointments, and the need to make extra financial decisions" are part of the problem.

In the **Journal of Science** study, researcher **Sendhill Mullainathan** concludes, "Almost like a computer...poverty creates this nagging background process, and that could itself have an effect on actual cognitive capacity." To which I say, "Duh."

■ CONTINUED



"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect."

~ Mark Twain

AND HAPPY LABOR DAY

... the only holiday that celebrates the common man (and woman) – not religion, a war anniversary, or the birth or death of a famous person.

As union leader **Samuel Gompers** wrote, "Among all the festive days of the year, of all the days commemorative of great epochs in the world's history, of all the days celebrated for one cause or another, there is not one which stands so conspicuously for social advancement of the common people as the first Monday in September of each recurring year – Labor Day."

"I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it." ~ Robert Benchley

YOU'RE AN ANIMAL

A turtle is crossing the road when he's mugged by two snails. When the police show up, they ask him what happened. The shell-shocked turtle replies, "I don't know. It all happened so fast."

A poodle and a collie are walking together when the poodle suddenly blurts to his friend, "My life is a mess!"

"My owner is mean," he says. "My bitch ran away with a schnauzer, and I'm as jittery as a cat."

"Why don't you go see a psychiatrist?" suggests the collie. "I can't," says the poodle. "I'm not allowed on the couch."

MORE

"I didn't like it when the left spent eight years trying to delegitimize President Bush... I don't think we should be doing that to President Obama."
~ Gov. Bobby Jindal

PLANETCLICK

TRENDS

FEMBOTS

TSUNAMI

NESTING FALCON

JUMPY

YIKES/UKES

LEOTIME

BRITMALS

DOGTIME

I BEG YOU

HORSETIME

SOMETHING BIG

SKYFALL

SIGNS

TRICKS

MUDMAN

STORMTIME

AMISH AIR

SWINGTIME

HOMeward

PICKED PIX

CLICK THE WORD
TO GO TO THE SITE

A Chinese cook in some California mining camp cooked up his leftovers and called it "tsa sui," which means "various things."

We call it Chop Suey. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

FRIENDS

Paul Gorman, Victor Kopcewich, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Alan Newcomb and Vanna Bonta, Paul Wells, Gregg Oppenheimer, George Riddle, Joan Allemand, Gene Ayres, Kent McCaman, Steve Harvey, Alan Sharpe, Ian Ruskin, Keith Hebble, Richard Laible, Betsey Brubaker-Strum, and Flori Schutzer. And congratulations to Diana Nyad, ironically named after the Roman goddess of the hunt and the Greek naiad, a water nymph dwelling in a lake, river, spring, or fountain. Talk about living up to your name!

"Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul."

~ Joyce Carol Oates

"We have it in our power to begin the world over again." ~ Thomas Paine

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